

The Nantucket Looms
16 Main Street
Nantucket
Nantucket County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-951

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

THE NANTUCKET LOOMS

Location: 16 Main Street (on south side of Lower Main Street, between Union and Washington Streets), Nantucket, Massachusetts

Present Owner: Nantucket Historical Trust

Present Occupant: The Nantucket Looms

Present Use: Business establishment

Brief Statement of Significance: Well known commercial location.

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

Up to 1846 this was known as the "Burnell Store Lot" and was occupied by Barker Burnell, "merchant," he having inherited it from his father, Hon. Barker Burnell.

1846 -- After fire razed this section of the town, the land was sold to George W. Macy by the Receivers of Manufacturers and Mechanics Bank in Nantucket. George W. Macy at this time also acquired from the same bank the property next south "formerly occupied by Jonas Garfield."

1861 -- Peleg Macy -- by deed from Assignees of George W. Macy, "insolvent debtor."

1864 -- John W. Macy bought from his father, Peleg Macy for \$300.

1872 -- Andrew M. Myrick from John W. Macy, "lumber dealer."

1908 -- Henry Holding bought from Alexander M. Myrick et al, for \$1725.

1910 -- H. Marshall Gardiner bought property (No. 16 Main St., between Union and Washington).

1941 -- H. Marshall Gardiner also bought the land and small building next south from Kenneth N. and Mae Flood Pense which they had bought in 1940 from Ellen N. Folger and Hannah G. Hatch, who had inherited from their father, Oliver C. Hatch, he having bought it in 1871 from George W. Macy.

Thus, the two and a half story building on the front and the two story building abutting it on the south came into the same ownership.

1961 to date -- Nantucket Historical Trust bought the whole from Bertha C. Gardiner, widow.
(Abstract: Records Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Massachusetts)

2. Date of erection: Soon after 1846.
3. Architect: None.
4. Original plans, construction, etc: None known.
5. Alterations and additions: During the Gardiner ownership an opening was made in the wall between the front and back buildings.

The building has been remodelled on the interior several times during the occupancy as a gift shop, and again 1963 for use of the Nantucket Looms.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Around 1900 this location was the scene of auctions conducted by George E. Mooers.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Two photographs on Inquirer and Mirror calendar for 1927, showing Lower Main Street in 1887 and 1927; two drawings in Our Gold Mine by Everett U. Crosby, 1951, showing the building in 1939 and 1951; photograph in Rambling Through the Streets and Lanes of Nantucket by Edouard A. Stackpole, 1947.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin
Nantucket, Massachusetts
June, 1968

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey project on Nantucket, Massachusetts. They are part of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Jack E. Boucher of Linwood, New Jersey, and Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, July 1971.